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REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 13, 2005, wherein Claims 1-11 were rejected. Claims 1, 9, and 11 have been amended.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 102

On page 2 of the Office Actions, Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended Claims 9 and 11 to better describe the present invention.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 102 and 103

On page 2 of the Office Action Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102 as being anticipated by Bolz et al. On pages 5-7 of the Office Action Claims 3, 6, 7, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103 as being unpatentable over Bolz et al., Rose, Beyn and Kodama.

The Examiner stated that Bolz et al. discloses an electronically controlled switch S3 coupled to the first battery B1 and a second battery B2. Applicants direct the Examiner to Figure 4 and column 9, lines 1-0 of the Bolz et al. specification. The switch S3 cannot be characterized as being coupled to the batteries B1 and B2. A DC/DC 3 converter electrically couples B2 and B1 through switch S3. Furthermore, batteries B2 and B1 do not share a common electrical or voltage reference. The DC/DC converter 3 modifies the DC voltage level to from 36 volts to 12 volts, as disclosed in column 9, lines 6-10. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 9 to better describe the present invention with first and second batteries sharing a common electrical node and/or direct electrical connection upon closure of the electronically controlled switch. Bolz et al. and the remaining cited prior art does not teach or suggest the newly amended claims.

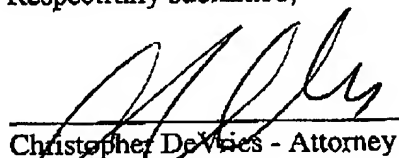
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Conclusion

The entire Office Action dated January 5, 2006 has been carefully reviewed, and this response is submitted as being fully responsive thereto. In view of the preceding remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-11 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action at the Examiner's earliest convenience. If the Examiner believes that personal contact would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to call the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Please charge any fees which may be due, to Deposit Account No. 07-0960.

Respectfully submitted,



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